

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In supplementation of the Amendment filed August 24, 2006, Applicants clarify some of the claim language.

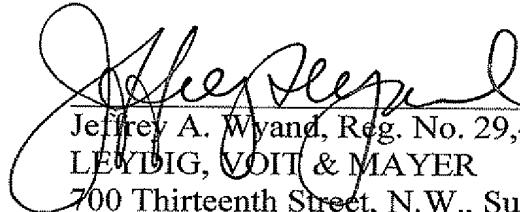
Amended claims 11 and 14 no longer refer to forming a silicon film on the support. Rather, the invention claimed is independent of that silicon film formation step. This clarification of claim 1 requires a corresponding amendment to claim 22, which refers to claim 11. Claim 22 does describe forming the silicon film. Further, an inadvertent error within claim 22 is corrected.

Independent method claim 14 is further amended to ensure that the claim conforms to the disclosure of the patent application with respect to Figure 20 and the description that appears in the patent application from page 27, line 9 through page 28, line 10. What is schematically illustrated in Figure 20 is a series of steps that are described in the clarified form of claim 14. In the first step, the visible light pulse 24 irradiates a first part of the silicon film 203. Melting and recrystallization begins in response to that irradiation. Subsequently, a second area, to the rear of the first area on the silicon film, is irradiated with the ultraviolet light pulse 25. Thereafter, although not illustrated, but described in the text of the patent application, and in claim 14, the structure 9 in Figure 20 moves to the left in Figure 20, along the direction of the arrow 71. Thereafter, the pulsed visible light 24_n, where n indicates the sequential process, is applied to a rear part of the first irradiated area and to a front part of the second irradiated area. As described in the patent application at page 28, this process aids in the continuing crystallization at the region 31 shown part (h) of Figure 20. In other words, the molten region continues to shift toward the right in the figure as the structure 9 moves toward the left. The process illustrated with the three pulses in Figure 20 is continually repeated, as clarified in amended claim 14, and results in the growth of a high quality crystalline silicon film.

The Remarks previously presented are not altered in view of the foregoing claim clarifications.

Entry and consideration of these supplemental amendments are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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